DREADNOK WAR
PART 1 OF 5
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
TOM REILLY
JORDIE BELLAIRE
G.I. JOE
image
#13

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CODENAME:

G.I. JOE

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LEAD OPERATIVES:

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
[WRITER]

TOM REILLY
[ARTIST]

JORDIE BELLAIRE
[COLORIST]

RUS WOOTON
[LETTERER]

COVER SUPPORT:

TOM REILLY
MARK SPEARS
BEN OLIVER
JESUS MERINO & ADRIANO LUCAS
KENDRICK "KUNKKA" LIM
LUDO LULLABI
ERIC CANETE
ANDREA MILANA & ANDRES JUAREZ
BJORN BARENDS

GROUND SUPPORT:

BEN ABERNATHY
[EDITOR]

ANDRES JUAREZ
[PUBLICATION DESIGN]

RICHARD MERCADO
[PRODUCTION]

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ANNA GEORGE
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GREG FOREMAN
SR. CROWDFUNDING MANAGER

DAN PETERSEN
SR. DIRECTOR, PUBLISHING OPERATIONS

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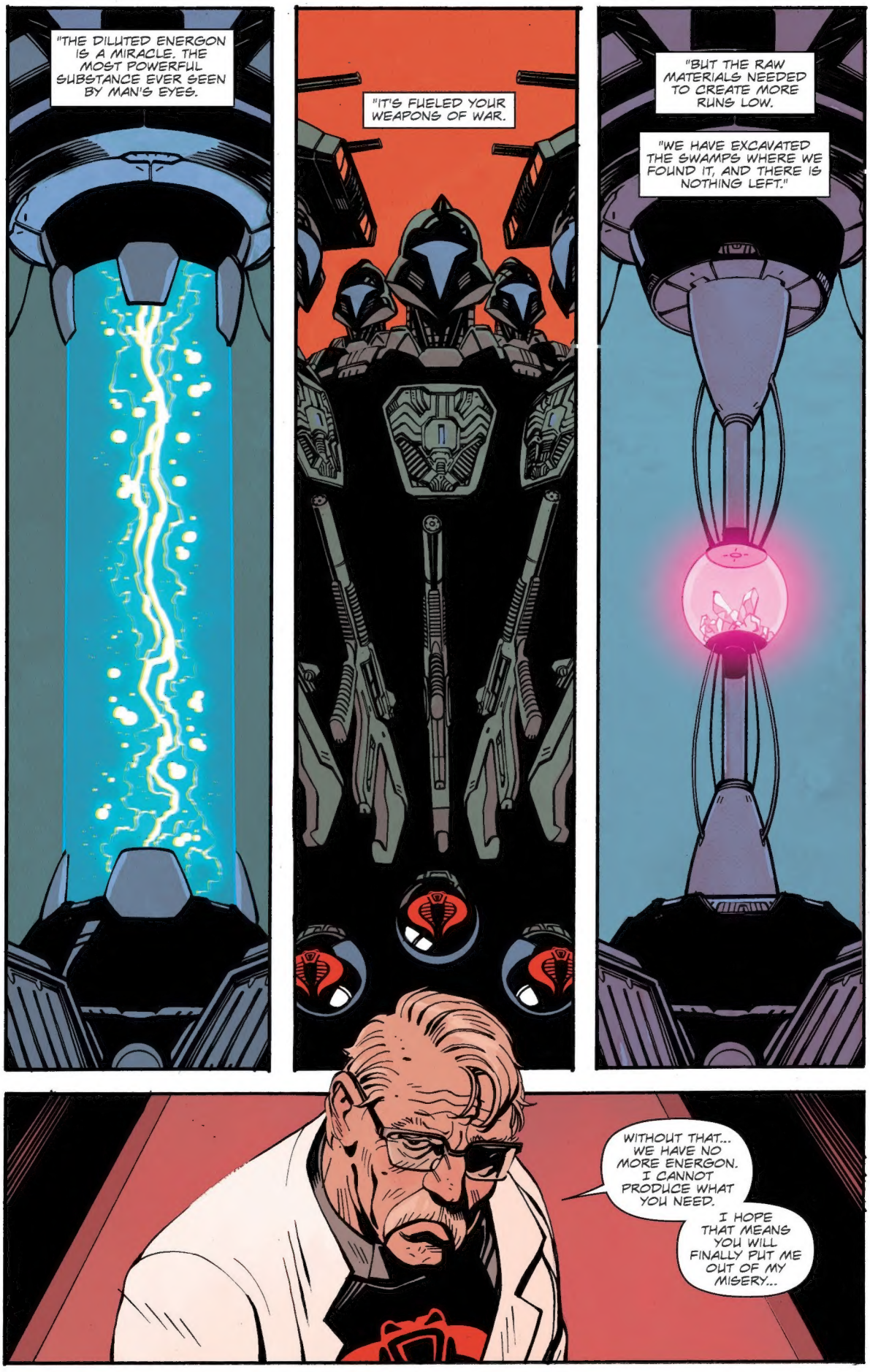
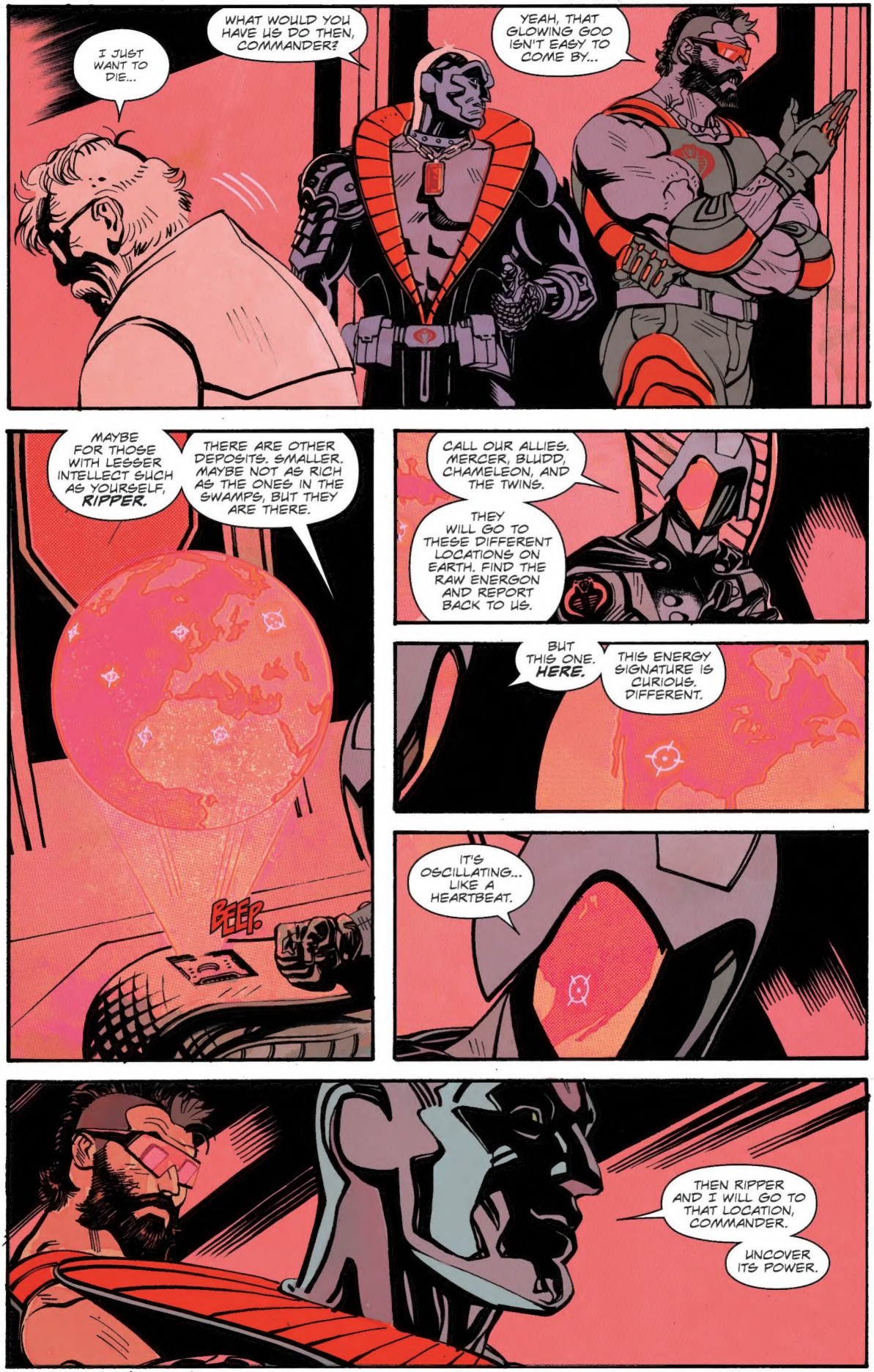

"THE DILUTED ENERGON IS A MIRACLE. THE MOST POWERFUL SUBSTANCE EVER SEEN BY MAN'S EYES.
"IT'S FUELED YOUR WEAPONS OF WAR.
"BUT THE RAW MATERIALS NEEDED TO CREATE MORE RUNS LOW.
"WE HAVE EXCAVATED THE SWAMPS WHERE WE FOUND IT, AND THERE IS NOTHING LEFT."
WITHOUT THAT... WE HAVE NO MORE ENERGON. I CANNOT PRODUCE WHAT YOU NEED.
I HOPE THAT MEANS YOU WILL FINALLY PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY...

COBRA COMMANDER
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF, LASZLO.
I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU AGES AGO. I DON'T NEED YOU. I CAN CREATE THE ENERGON MYSELF.
BUT I LIKE KEEPING YOU ALIVE AND UNDER MY THUMB. IT... PLEASES ME.
AS FOR THE RAW MATERIAL, WE WILL FIND MORE.


I JUST WANT TO DIE...
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO THEN, COMMANDER?
YEAH, THAT GLOWING GOO ISN'T EASY TO COME BY...
MAYBE FOR THOSE WITH LESSER INTELLECT SUCH AS YOURSELF, RIPPER.
THERE ARE OTHER DEPOSITS. SMALLER. MAYBE NOT AS RICH AS THE ONES IN THE SWAMPS, BUT THEY ARE THERE.
BEEP.
CALL OUR ALLIES. MERCER, BLUDD, CHAMELEON, AND THE TWINS.
THEY WILL GO TO THESE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ON EARTH. FIND THE RAW ENERGON AND REPORT BACK TO US.
BUT THIS ONE. HERE.
THIS ENERGY SIGNATURE IS CURIOUS. DIFFERENT.
IT'S OSCILLATING... LIKE A HEARTBEAT.
THEN RIPPER AND I WILL GO TO THAT LOCATION, COMMANDER.
UNCOVER ITS POWER.

NO.
I WILL ATTEND TO THIS MYSELF.
RISK YOU IN THE OPEN? WHY?
WHY DOES THIS ONE INTEREST YOU?
NO CONCERN OF YOURS, DESTRO. JUST FOLLOW MY ORDERS.
CONTACT OUR ALLIES AND MAKE SURE THEY KNOW THE MISSION.
RIPPER. GATHER A PLATOON AND MEET ME AT THE TRANSPORTS. WE HAVE A BUSY DAY AHEAD.
YOU GOT IT, BOSS.
HOLD A MOMENT, RIPPER.

WHAT YA WANT, DESTRO? YOU HEARD THE BOSS. I GOT WORK TO DO.
I MERELY WANTED TO COMMEND YOU ON YOUR LOYALTY TO THE COMMANDER.
ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT HE DID TO YOU AND THE DREADNOKS.

AAAAHHHHH
PLEASE, NO!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FACE?!

BUT I KNOW HIS ACTIONS WERE FOR A GOOD CAUSE. IT HELPED HIM BUILD THIS EMPIRE.
IT IS GOOD THAT HE HAS YOU AT HIS SIDE ON THIS EXCURSION.
IT WOULD BE A PITY IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO OUR DEAR COMMANDER.

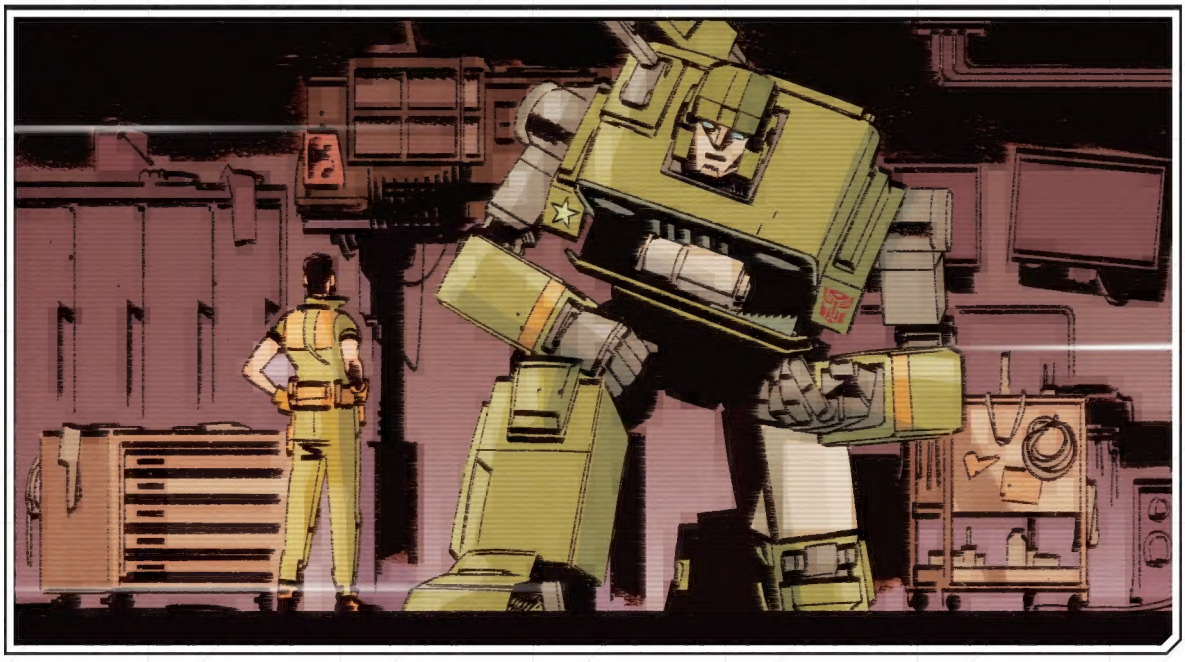
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT...

A REAL PITY...

After the death of his friend at the hands of the Decepticon Starscream, Conrad "Duke" Hauser went on a mission of revenge, only to uncover a grand conspiracy involving a dangerous alien substance called ENERGON.

But Duke wasn't the only person on the hunt for Energon. Cobra Commander, a rogue scientist from the secret civilization called Cobra-La, left his hidden home in search of POWER.

While Duke's journey found him confronting the international arms dealer called Destro, Cobra Commander found a stockpile of Energon controlled by a group of ruthless outlaws — the Dreadnoks. After several Dreadnoks died in brutal fashion, Coba Commander stole their Energon.

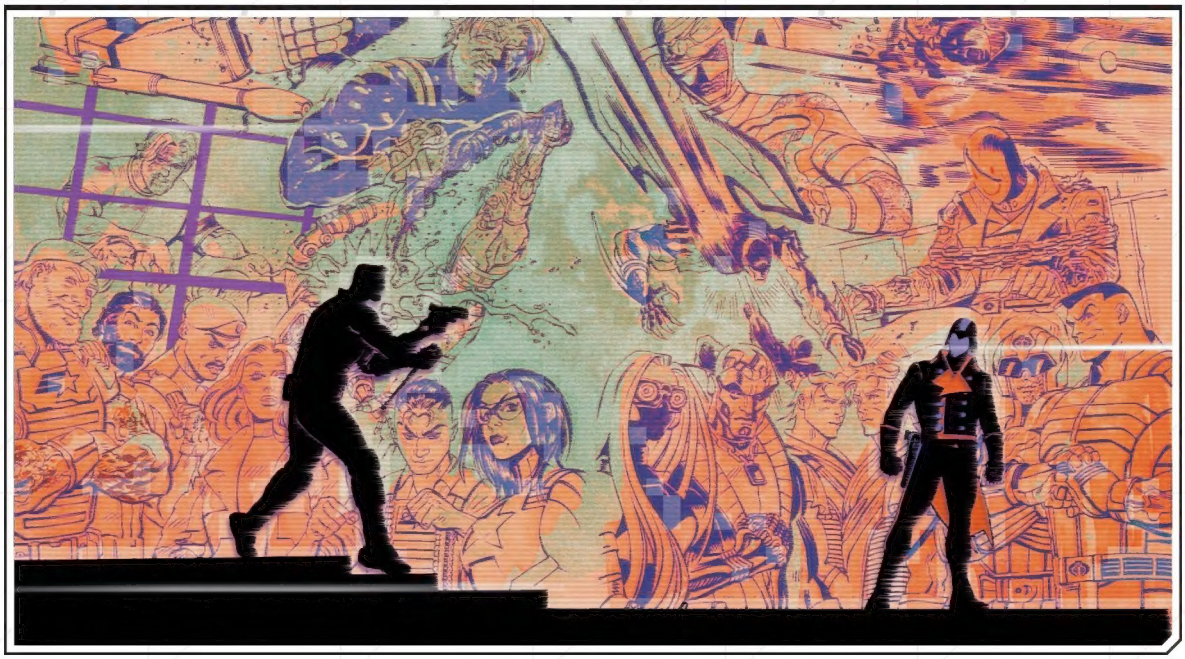


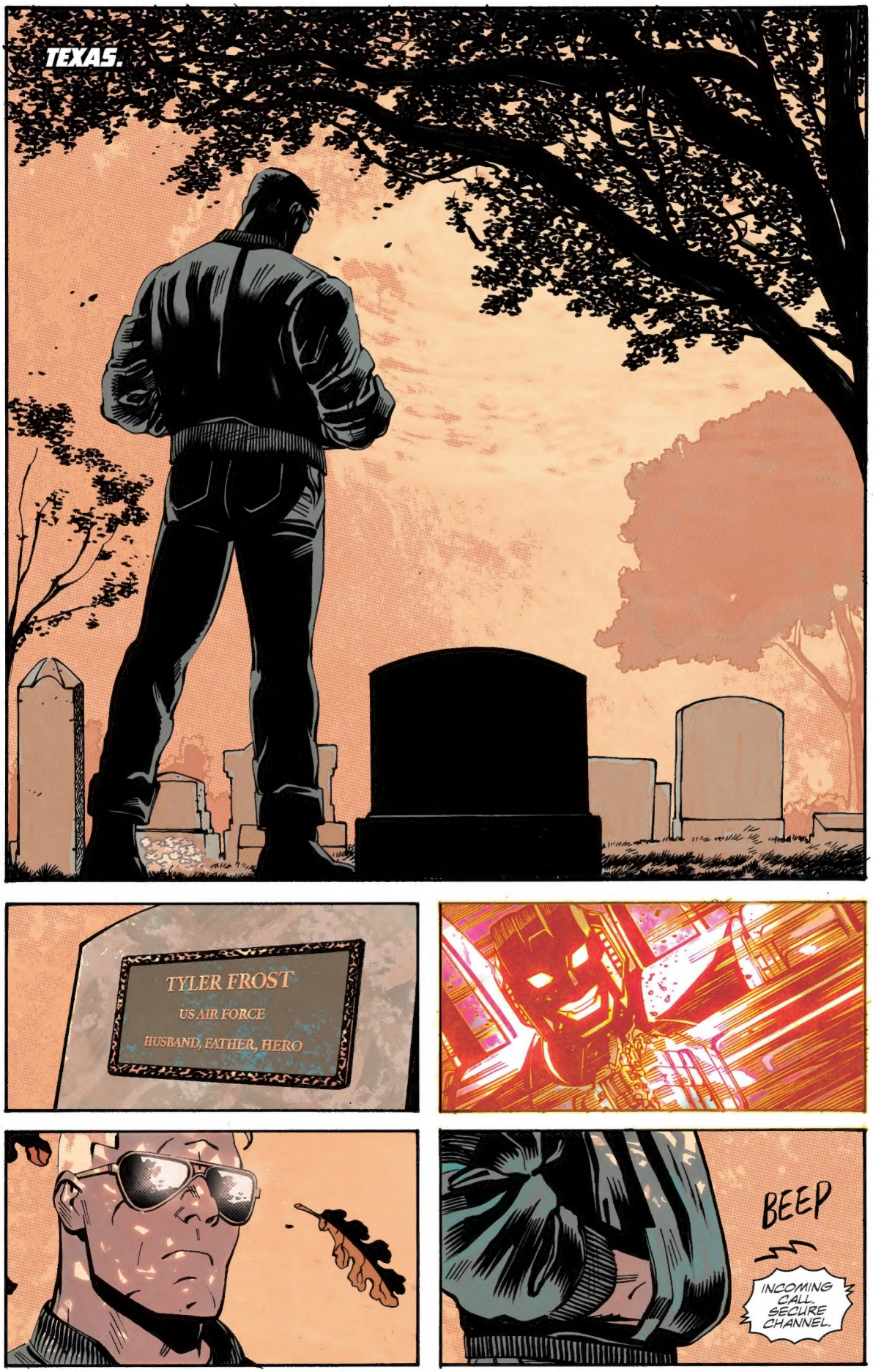
Duke's mission led to the formation of G.I. JOE, a ragtag peacekeeping force tasked with stopping Transformers and also investigating Energon. Cobra Commander used the Energon and his connections to Destro to create the terrorist organization known as COBRA. The first open confrontation between the two factions ended with a violent standoff between Duke and Cobra Commander.

Since then, both factions have created new alliances and new enemies in an Energon-fueled arms race with no clear winner in sight.

But one thing is certain...

The war between Duke and Cobra Commander has just begun...




TEXAS.
TYLER FROST
US AIR FORCE
HUSBAND, FATHER, HERO
BEEP
INCOMING CALL. SECURE CHANNEL.

BETTER BE GOOD.
HEYYYYY, CONRAD, IT'S CLUTCH.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL HIM...
I KNOW THIS IS YOUR R&R TIME. SORRY. BUT I HAVE A QUICK THING TO RUN BY YOU.
IT'S OKAY, BUDDY. WHAT YA GOT?
OKAY, SO EVER SINCE WE GOT THE ENERGON SAMPLES, WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO SEE IF WE CAN TRACK IT. USE IT TO FIND COBRA OR MONITOR THEIR MOVES.
AND WE GOT SOMETHING. A WEIRD PULSING SIGNAL. IT'S FAINT. STALKER TOOK BARONESS AND RISK TO CHECK OUT WHAT HAPPENED IN CHICAGO, SO WE'RE SPREAD A LITTLE THIN.
AND YOU WANT ME TO INVESTIGATE.
BINGO.
WHERE?
THAT'S THE THING...

IT'S IN THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT. NOTHING IS OUT THERE, SO I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'LL FIND.

BUT BE CAREFUL, DUKE...THAT DESERT IS **NO JOKE.** YOU CAN FRY AN EGG ON ANY SURFACE...

VROOOMMM

-=HUNH.=- WHERE'S YOUR ANOMALY AT, CLUTCH...?

NOTHING OUT HERE, BUT DIRT... AND...

"COBRA?!"
DIG HARDER.
THIS IS WHERE THE ENERGY SIGNATURE RADIATED FROM.
I WANT TO BE OUT OF HERE BY NIGHTFALL.
RED ALERT. THIS IS DUKE. RED ALERT.
COBRA IS HERE. REPEAT, COBRA IS HERE. SEND BACK-UP IMMEDIATELY.
KKTSSH
HELLO? HELLO?
KKTSSH

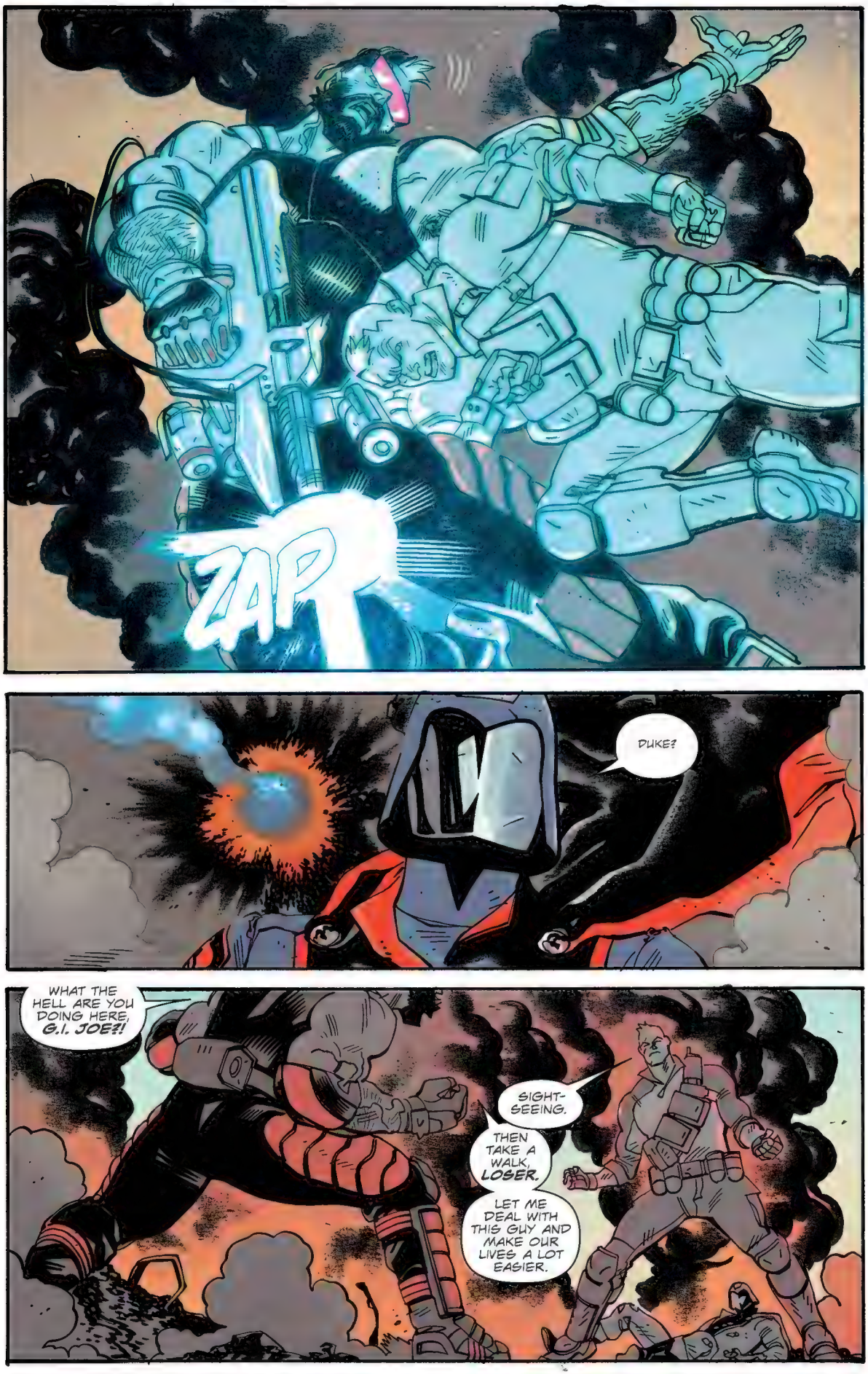
RIPPER! SHOW OUR TROOPS HOW TO DIG FASTER.
SURE THING... BOSS.
DOES THIS HEAT MAKE THESE FOOLS EVEN DUMBER?
THIS ENERGON LOOKS ALIVE... PERHAPS LIKE MY OLD METAL FRIEND I LEFT BEHIND...
FOUND SOMETHING!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ENERGON TO ME.
GIVE ME THAT.
IT'S NOT. BUT THIS WAS MADE TO MAKE US THINK IT WAS.
THEN WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A TRAP...

KA-BOOM!
BEEP
WHERE ARE THEY ATTACKING US FROM?
BOOM
BOOMBOOMBOOM

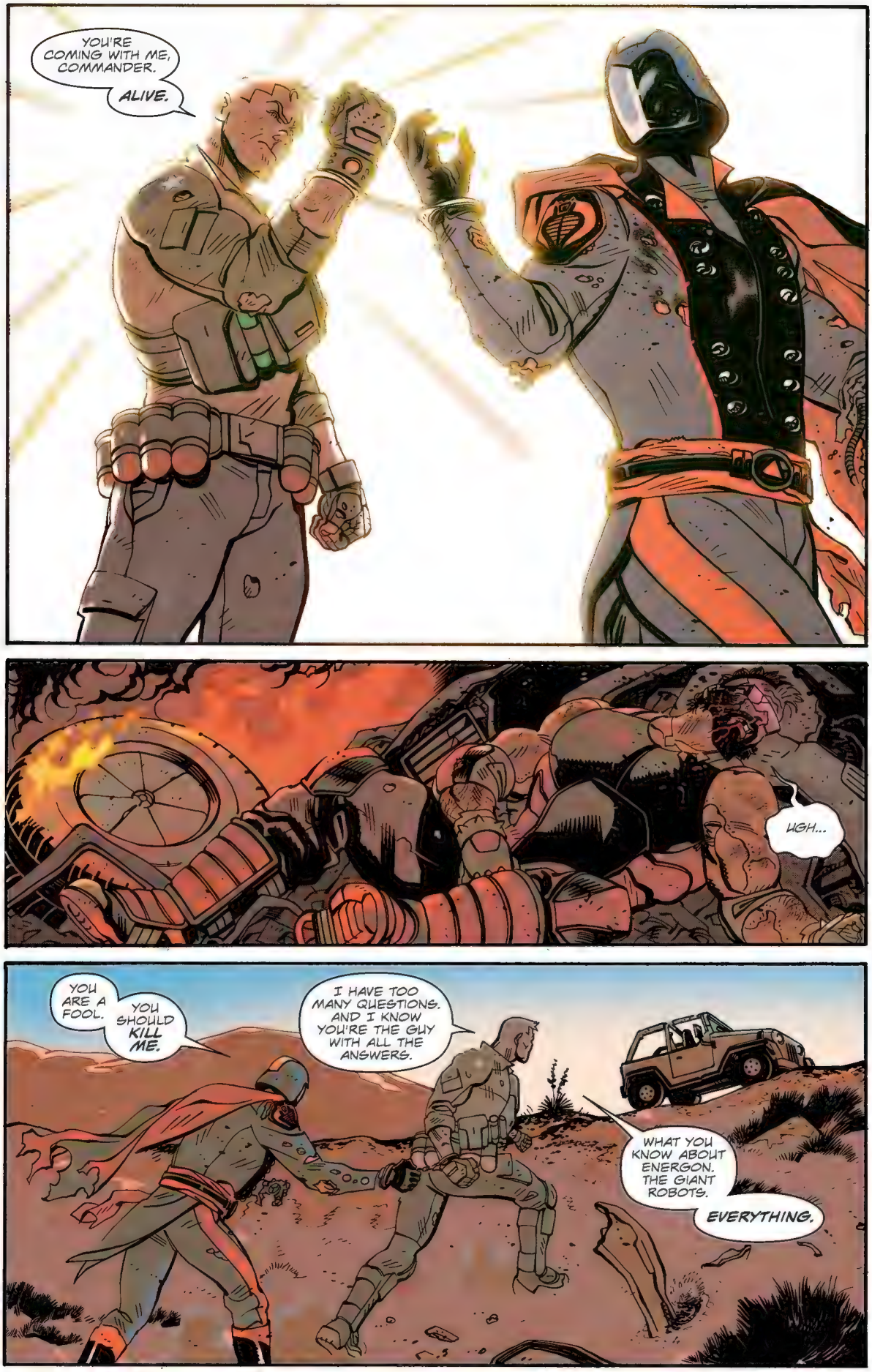
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
BANG BANG BANG BANG
FIGHT BACK, YOU FOOLS. EARN YOUR PLACE...
HM.
THIS IS COBRA COMMANDER. I'M UNDER ATTACK. SEND REINFORCEMENTS IMMEDIATELY.
NO RESPONSE. HOW?
FINE. I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
YOU HOPE TO SCARE ME? YOU MAY THINK I'M UNARMED, AND THAT MISTAKE WILL COST YOU YOUR LIVES!

CRUSH
SURPRISE!
HOW DARE YOU HURT ME?!
I'LL KILL YOU, RIPPER!
REVENGE IS A REAL OOOO, COMMANDER.

ZAP
I GOTTA ADMIT, I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU. LEARNING FROM YOU. YOU'RE A...WHAT DO YOU CALL IT...AN OPPORTUNIST, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DEVICE WAS THAT BROUGHT US OUT HERE INTO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. BUT I SAW MY SHOT, AND I TOOK IT.
COBRA WILL GET MY SIGNAL. THEY WILL COME.
AND THEN I WILL TORTURE YOU IN WAYS YOU COULD NEVER IMAGINE.
YOU WILL BEG ME TO KILL YOU.
THWOK!
PASS.
I SET UP A WHITE NOISE SIGNAL DISRUPTOR. NO MESSAGES ARE GETTING IN OR OUT OF THIS DESERT.
YOU'RE ALL ALONE.
NO ONE IS COMING TO SAVE YOU.


ZAP
DUKE?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, G.I. JOE?!
SIGHT-SEEING.
THEN TAKE A WALK, LOSER.
LET ME DEAL WITH THIS GUY AND MAKE OUR LIVES A LOT EASIER.

NOT TODAY!
UGH... GO ON. KILL EACH OTHER.
NEED TO FIND A WEAPON...
OR AN ESCAPE...
NOT SO FAST, SNAKE.


YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, COMMANDER.
ALIVE.
UGH...
YOU ARE A FOOL.
YOU SHOULD KILL ME.
I HAVE TOO MANY QUESTIONS. AND I KNOW YOU'RE THE GUY WITH ALL THE ANSWERS.
WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ENERGON. THE GIANT ROBOTS.
EVERYTHING.

I DON'T CARE IF MORE COBRA IS SHOWING UP, COMMANDER. I'M TAKING YOU IN.
THAT IS NOT COBRA, DUKE.
HAHAHAHAHA
YOU REALLY THINK I'D COME OUT HERE ALONE?
$&@#.
THAT'S RIGHT, LOSER.
HAHAHAHA
YOU'RE IN REAL TROUBLE NOW. YOU'RE MESSING WITH THE...

DREADNOKS!

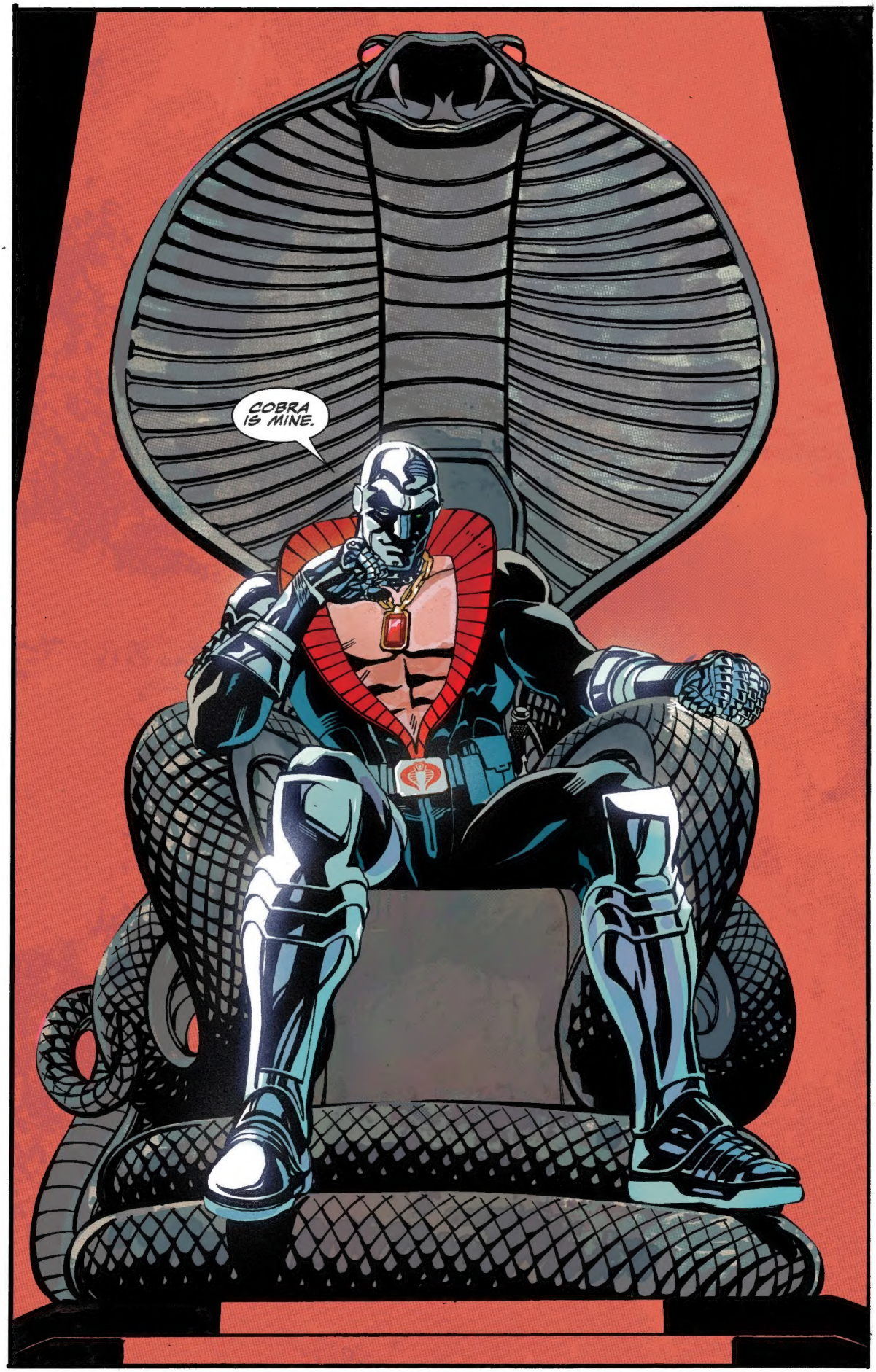
WRRRRRRRRRRRRR

HAHAHA.
WE GOT YOU NOW.
FIRST, WE MAKE COBRA COMMANDER PAY FOR STEALING FROM US. HURTING US.
AND THEN WE'LL SEE WHAT THE JOES ARE WILLING TO PAY TO GET YOU BACK, BRIGHT BOY.
VVVRRRRMMM
KRAK!
VVVRRRRMMM
SPT.

SSSCREE-
ISSSHH
YA DON'T CALL, YA DON'T WRITE.
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN READ EITHER, BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, MATE.
CHAINSAW HAND? JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T GET ANY COOLER, BUZZER.
HELL YEAH.
WE GOT YOUR CALL.
TIME TO BURN A SNAKE.
WELL, WHERE IS HE THEN?
YEAH. WHERE IS HE? TELL ME YOU DIDN'T DRAW US ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR NOTHING.
DON'T GET YOUR PANTIES IN A TWIST, ZARANA.
COBRA COMMANDER HAS A FRIEND...

"AND THEY'RE ON THE RUN TOGETHER."
I LOVE A GOOD CHASE.
CRACK OPEN THE GRAPE SODA, BABES.
LET'S RIDE...

"COBRA COMMANDER IS AS GOOD AS DEAD."
YOU GOT THE CALL, TOO?
ALL HANDS ON DECK.
IT SOUNDED URGENT.
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT THEN? I KNOW I'M THE NEW GUY HERE, BUT I DON'T LIKE VAGUE ORDERS.
WHERE IS COBRA COMMANDER?
THE COMMANDER HAS TAKEN A LEAVE OF ABSENCE.
CALL IT A SABBATICAL.
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD...


COBRA IS MINE.

STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: GIJOE@SKYBOUND.COM

And the DREADNOK WAR BEGINS! We've been talking about this storyline internally for SO long (well over a year!) that it's wild that you're now holding chapter 1…we hope you enjoyed it as a lot of blood, sweat and tears went into its creation! Joining me as always is writer and architect Joshua Williamson!

Longer than a year! This was part of our initial pitch for the series. There were times we thought this could be the 2nd arc, but we knew we needed to let things breathe after the first arc, get a few more character based issues to build out the team, and build the pieces we needed for this story to work.

Also, welcome back Tom and Jordie to the series! I'm really excited for you to see the insanity they have cooked up for you. These issues are NUTS. Beautiful work.

This arc is action packed, but also crucial to our mega plans for the series. Get ready for some wild surprises!

Let's dig into the mail bag!

Hey There Joe Team,

I have been thoroughly enjoying the new G.I. Joe. Other than a few episodes of The Adventures Continue, it is my first real G.I. Joe. My Dad was a big fan when he was a kid and had tons of the figures and vehicles. But anyway, back to why I am sending in my first letter to a comic book. I really enjoyed Duke and G.I. Joe # 7-9.

I picked up the collected editions of Duke and G.I. Joe very recently, as I picked up the collected edition from the public library and got sucked in and thought I would get one for myself. The cliffhanger at the end of issue #9 is great. I am curious, will this lead to Baroness defecting to Cobra? I am aware she is part of Cobra in the show so…maybe? I hope not, but it would make the story…complicated. In a good way. I really enjoy Tom Reilly's art for G.I. Joe. The little circles that make up the coloring by Jordie Bellair gives the vibe of an old cartoon. I love it. Andrea Milana also does a fantastic job. In issue #9 page 2, Raptor's swoop is absolutely perfect. MY favorite part about G.I. Joe, and what makes it my favorite EU comic is that it really focuses on how the discovery of Energon and Transformers coming to Earth and how their battle is really affecting the humans, and how they are going to try to stop it. Thank you all for making a wonderful comic

Ransom

Thank you for writing in! We have a lot of fun plans for Baroness and her role in G.I. Joe. As with everything in the Energon Universe…things won't play out exactly as they did in the classic comics and cartoon. We're putting the Energon Universe spin on everything.

And yeah, one of my favorite parts of Jordie's coloring is how it gives an animated vibe to Tom's work.

Raptor was really cool. Andrea did a killer job with him.

Joe Team,

Oh man, Hound with the horror splash page at the end! Can't wait for issue #11 to drop. I think the way that you guys are handling the Transformers within the G.I. Joe series is great and lends itself well to a potential horror-esque issue involving the robots in disguise. Any chance we'll see that on the horizon?

Keep up the good work,
Dan

Loved that last page. I didn't aim for a horror beat in the script. Just menacing and a surprise. But Andrea took that and made one of my favorites. Really elevated what I was thinking and took it to an awesome house of horror!

I do think we'll have some horror themed issues on the horizon. I'll have to ask my magic ball and see what it says…

And that's a wrap! Sorry, we only had room for a single page of Straight Shooters this month due to the oversized story…but PLEASE keep those letters rolling in. And join us in TWO weeks for G.I. JOE #14!

G.I. JOE #14, the sense-shattering second chapter of Dreadnok War, is on sale 11/19!

-Ben

Because of the importance of this arc, we added more pages to this issue, so the big moments could breath. But that meant less letters. But please, keep them coming. Let us know what you think of this issue! And yeah…TWO WEEKS. DOUBLE SHIP, BABY!

-Joshua Williamson

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